

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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SUBJ: FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT BANDA'S
SPEECH OPENING PARTY CONVENTION

REF: A. BLANTYRE 1019

B. BLANTYRE 1126

C. BLANTYRE A-59, 7/22/74

D. BLANTYRE 1018

1. IN SPEECH OPENING ANNUAL MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY CONVENTION
IN LILONGWE SEPTEMBER 1, BANDA SPOKE MORE EXTENSIVELY ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAN HE HAS IN PAST SEVERAL YEARS. HIGHLIGHTS
FOLLOW.

2. MOZAMBIQUE. BANDA TREATED CONVENTION TO LEGHTHY RE-HASH OF
HIS STANDARD RECENT DEFENSE OF JORGE JARDIM'S ROLE IN MOZAMBIQUE
DECOLONIZATION (REF A) AND AGAIN CRITICIZED PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT
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FOR SEEKING FEDERATION OR FALSE INDEPENDENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE.

BANDA DESCRIBED PROLIFERATION OF NEW POLITICAL GROUPINGS IN MOZAMBIQUE AS WORK OF PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, UNDERTAKEN UNDER "DIVIDE AND RULE" MAXIM. HE REITERATED CALL FOR IMMEDIATE PORTUGUESE ACCEPTANCE OF MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE FOR MOZAMBIQUE. HOWEVER, AS FORECAST REF B, HE EXPANDED HIS PREVIOUS POSITION BY ADDING THAT SINCE FRELIMO WAS "STRONGEST" MOZAMBIQUE NATIONALIST GROUP, PORTUGUESE SHOULD NEGOTIATE IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE WITH THEM.

3. RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN NEIGHBORS.

A. ZAMBIA: PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA WERE RAPIDLY IMPROVING. HE WAS AT PAINS TO DESCRIBE PROCESS BY WHICH ZAMBIAN LEADERSHIP FINALLY HAD REJECTED ANTI-BANDA "LIES" OF MALAWI EXILES SUCH AS CHOKANI AND CHAPONDA AND HAD COME TO ACCEPT MALAWI AS STABLE, PROGRESSIVE SISTER STATE. MAY 6 VISIT OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA WAS LABELED MOST DRAMATIC PROOF OF IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. UNIP DELEGATE SIMON KALULU WAS INTRODUCED TO CONVENTION TO APPLAUSE. BANDA ALSO PUBLICLY CONFIRMED EARLIER INDICATION (REF C) THAT HE PLANS TO EXTEND MALAWI'S RAIL SYSTEM FROM LILONGWE TO MOHINJI ON ZAMBIA BORDER. HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT FINANCING OF NEW RAIL SEGMENT PAST LILONGWE OR ABOUT ZAMBIAN PLANS TO EXTEND THEIR OWN SYSTEM TO LINK WITH MALAWI'S.

B. TANZANIA: BY CONTRAST, IN ACTUAL SPEECH BEFORE CONVENTION BANDA SAID LITTLE ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA AND REFERRED ONLY OBLIQUELY TO RECENT FLAP OVER TANZANIA DAILY NEWS REPORT ON MERCENARIES IN MALAWI (REF D), SAYING TANZANIAN DELEGATION WOULD ARRIVE SEPT 2 TO ATTEND CONVENTION AND COULD SATISFY THEMSELVES WHETHER THERE WERE "SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS" IN MALAWI. PRESIDENT DID NOT REFER TO HIS EARLIER REQUEST FOR OAU INVESTIGATION ON ALLEGED MERCENARY PRESENCE IN MALAWI. HOWEVER, LATER, IN PUBLIC VERSION OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH CARRIED BLANTYRE DAILY TIMES SEP 3, PRESIDENT WAS QUOTED EXTENSIVELY AS SAYING RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA ALSO HAD IMPROVED. QUOTATIONS PARALLEL EARLIER BANDA SPEECHES MADE PRIOR TO MERCENARY FLAP BUT THEY WERE NOT UTTERED ON CONVENTION FLOOR AS REPORTED. DAILY TIMES ALSO ANNOUNCED ARRIVAL OF TWO TANU DELEGATION TO ATTEND

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CONVENTION (MESSRS ENOS MWANGOKA AND ALAN HERI).

4. MALAWI LABORERS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. PRESIDENT DID NOT TREAT TOPIC OTHER THAN TO SAY GENERALLY THAT MALAWI WORKERS SHOULD SEEK JOBS AT HOME RATHER THAN GO TO SOUTH AFRICA. EMBASSY BELIEVES SUBJECT MAY YET BE DEALT WITH BY CONVENTION AND COVERED IN MORE LEGHT IN PRESIDENT'S CLOSING SPEECH SEPT 7.

STEVENSON

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